Post GULF WAR trip to IRAQ (1992)

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¤ Alternative Views

461. A POST-WAR TRIP TO IRAQ (1991)
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Bill Kelsey, an expert on the Middle-East, relates his experiences from a recent post-war trip to Iraq. Kelsey traveled widely in the country, observing the areas of destruction and reconstruction. His conversations with the people reveal some astonishing insights.

Run time: 59:28
Recorded December, 1991
News: November, 1991
Copyright January, 1992

This movie is part of the collection: Alternative Views

Producer: Frank Morrow
Production Company: Alternative Information Network
Audio/Visual: sound, color
Language: English

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for them the war's not over there their salary can only support their monthly salary only supports them for a week so it's very difficult for them to survive and they all would talk to us and say please we're being strangled our leadership nothing's happening but people at the top in power they are getting all the food they want they have nice cars but they're not in any difficulty at all so on this business of fighting Saddam Hussein by starving the people of Iraq are putting the squeeze on them over and over again that's what we heard please don't do it and I checked this out I'd read about it before i went there and i checked with taxi drivers and I checked with doctors and I checked with a lot of people they said yeah we feel that in the West you all

know how to use your equipment and you're well trained on it but we all think the Saudis know how to use it they were probably the ones who hit our hospitals and so forth he said I don't I don't know too much about said on the same with the main thing I have against him is that he was one of our hitmen when I was in the CIA bill Kelsey lived and worked in the Middle East for many years he just returned from Iraq and shares his experiences with us right now on alternative views

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bill kelsey is back with us on alternative views he's an expert on the Middle East having lived there for 14 years taught English there and has made two trips to the Middle East the last time was right right after the war that he was on our program and this time he's just come back from a trip to the Middle East to Jordan Israel and to Iraq we're going to talk about the Iraq situation on this alternative views well before we have our interview here are some news stories from the Alternative Press it's kind of curious that Elliot Richardson has taken on the in slaw case he represents the software's developer and he says there's more evidence that President Bush has been involved in this case and there was a Richard Nixon's involvement in the early days of Watergate and he's calling for a special prosecutor to investigate the alleged theft of a legal software system and the theft was by the Justice Department the Justice Department stolen software and altered it according to the owners of the in small company and several witnesses have testified that in fact the modified software was sold to

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the modified software was sold to governments of 88 countries and the kicker is of course that the u.s. also has the software and they can use this in order to tap into the information that's being processed by in these countries where the software is being used Richardson le Richardson as I said as an establishment man he's now in private practice in Washington DC he's probably best remembered during this so-called when he was friday night massacre or saturday night or friday night some night massacre when he resigns his attorney general in 1973 after refusing Richard Nixon's order to fire the Watergate special prosecutor Archibald Cox so the boys in the establishment are fighting a little bit during the hearings in which Clarence Thomas was confirmed as supreme court justice there was a lot of discussion about his love of pornography the sexual harassment of hit one of his secretaries Anita Hill but they really didn't discuss some of the incredible scandals the Clarence Thomas was involved in for one thing when he was the head of the office of economic opportunities there was another sexual harassment claim that was made in the Baltimore office that Thomas involved himself in a conspiracy to cover over although there were very serious claims of sexual harassment by one of the employers there would harass many different women Thomas didn't take the criticism seriously he didn't press charges he made a ruling that made it appear that sexual harassment was not an important issue in his office and for some reason this simply was not brought up in the hearing but the biggest scandal that wasn't brought up in the hearing has to do with the ruling that Thomas made as a judge as a federal judge after he had been appointed by Ronald Reagan to that office Clarence

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Ronald Reagan to that office Clarence Thomas's sponsor was John danfa the senator from Missouri who happens to be the wealthiest senator in the whole Senate he is a multi billionaire and you saw him every day defending his prodigy Clarence Thomas for years Danforth has sponsored Thomas in federal job after federal job defending him time after time well it appeared that when Clarence Thomas was judge federal judge there was a business court case that he had to rule on that involved none other than john danforth who is one of the owners of the Ralston Purina company this Court decision involved millions and millions of dollars and Thomas did not rule himself out ineligible to rule on this which he should have because clearly he had a conflict of interest since he was obviously a personal friend of Senator Danforth instead he ruled on the case and surprise surprise he ruled in down for his favor this issue also is not brought up by the mass media in the tremendous amount of discussion and controversy surrounding Clarence Thomas and shows when it comes to the big bucks that's the limitation of public debate that simply the ruling class the wealthiest

corporate elite simply don't get criticized in the mass media on things like conflict of interest so senator Danforth remains one of the Senators that has the highest reputation in the Senate he's supposed to be honest to have integrity he was speaking very moralistically attacking these liberal senators who are attacking Clarence Thomas and yet he allowed this to happen so much for justice in the United States and so much for our watchdog media that keep their eye on corruption in the government let's talk about Lockerbie in Libya you know Mark Twain said something he says when allied decides to get out ally makes it half

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decides to get out ally makes it half way across the word world before truths has a chance to get a bed and pull its pants on and so I mean who knows maybe we'll find out another 20-30 years what really happened with the Lockerbie incident but I remember that the two years ago there was final final final proof that it was in fact Syria and the Syrian intelligence and they named individuals and it was the Syrians who had done this then there was final proof that the Iranians had done in and there was final proof that the I'm ajab real gang was the night material bring there's a copy of the front for the liberation of palestine general command it's a splinter offshoot it's an anti arafat by the way there was final proof that that group had been responsible meanwhile anything that was said about Libya I thought to come and consensus up until recently was that aha Ronald Reagan bombed Libya and taught Gaddafi a lesson and there's been no terrorism since then that's what you hear on a radio talk shows and also you did the job the job saw so it's interesting if in fact Libya did do this if you did do this it shows that that retaliation killing Gaddafi's daughter was not the way to go about these things of course whatever the United States retaliated against Libya for it's not clear what it was that Libya did or if Libya did what is said libya did we don't know that we don't know that other rumors that that was really the material group or the Iranians or the Syrians and one thing I find fascinating is that during the war one of the little known pieces of trivia was that the i'ma jabrill group radical anti-american anti-israeli anti Arafat he thinks serif fonts a tree a traitor because he's Yasser Arafat's to pro-american and to

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Yasser Arafat's to pro-american and to pro-israeli okay that fellow sided with the Allies see in the iran-iraq war yeah Erika in Iraq were right he didn't he didn't fire any shots but one would have presumed that in any conflict between American the Arab world that the armored gibril group of all people would certainly be setting off bombs and so forth no in fact he yasser arafat allied himself with the Saddam Hussein and his enemy I'm a gibril allied himself with the Saudis and I think he collected a lot of money for it and presumably one of his rewards is to not be blamed anymore for for the Lockerbie incident there was another story written relationship to the Lockerbie incident it was big news up in Canada first reported by the Toronto Star where a reporter had come across no it was a he got a hold of a report by the company I was a Pan Am is that the infinium okay they looked into it and it seems that there was it was a CIA operation in the Middle East with the CIA relationship with some of the Muslim fundamentalists and they were kind of becoming running amok and getting out of control so they were the so a group cie people was sent from Washington to tell those guys try to find out what situation was and then to try to straighten it out they were also running drugs as well in this middle east so what happened was that the renegade CIA people got their buddies to plant a bomb and the plane as the CIA group was coming back to the United States to report and possibly put the Quietus on that right that's as good a

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Quietus on that right that's as good a great year see theory as any and we'll there'll be plenty it is true it is true that there were some high-level spooks on that plane whether that was coincidence or not who knows I do know that people are very expert at assembling blown up things and figuring out what kind of bomb was used but I don't know I it seems almost far-fetched to believe that they were able to trace it to the exact suitcase and the exact after after this thing felt blew up and then fell out of the sky 31 they said main transfer was made I think in Frankfurt where the where they had a suitcase like the one that was there but I mean the

basic point is that this was yet another scenario on what happens in the lane right and you can read all kinds and then the third another thing that about the Lockerbie thing and blaming it on Libya why should we believe anything that comes out of the administration of George Bush and Ronald Reagan they've lied and lied and lied over and over and over particularly in relationship to Libya remember the Libyan hit squads we're going to kill Ronald Reagan etc etc why should we believe them when they're telling us this Lorraine they I'm prepared to believe they're telling the truth as much as I'm prepared to believe that their manufacturing consent for the next war I had been aware that I mean it's no secret just counted the United States managed to get itself into a good war about every seven years or so and I'd hoped that after last war we haven't at least five or six years reprieve and I'm getting nervous now between the noises they're making about North Korea and Cuba and Libya that wondering what they have next in mind well it's very interesting that not only does George Bush say that there are we have to keep a lot of military spending because even though the Soviets are not a threat we're going to have

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are not a threat we're going to have threats from these small countries and they also they its policy now which was pried out of the I guess who Freedom of Information Act that a one of these national security directives from George Bush said this is the way they're going to do it from now on they're going to have these wars where they've got to go in the third world countries if they any of them get uppity and don't do what the Americans want to do they've got to go in just like they did in Iraq with overwhelming technical superiority and wipe out their infrastructure and everything else they can as as an example and they have mentioned that there are these three countries that are left that they don't like North Korea Cuba and Lumia right so we might be prepared we might have to get into the streets again that's right the white supremacist groups who don't use a term racist they use the term racialist they always say that all they're not violent at all however you read incidents here and there where they do get a little bit angry the times for instance in Minneapolis three students on October 17th the University of Minnesota needed stitches after they were attacked by a gang of Club wheeling white supremacist the students were members of the progressive student organization and the anti-racist action group they've been picketing outside a campus radio station where a white racist Tom David he was head of the white students union was participating in a call-in show according to the Minnesota daily David arrived at the station wearing army helmet didn't say whether it was not see how murder American can't tell too much difference anymore but also had a bulletproof jacket on and he was escorted by bodyguards and after he went

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escorted by bodyguards and after he went inside about a dozen of these white supremacists attacked the protesters with sticks clubs and chains gosh nice guys we've reported on alternative views that the burning oil well fires in Kuwait constituted the greatest ecological threat in history there was something like 900 oil wells burning spewing filth and pollution into the atmosphere that threatened to block the sunlight from entire regions in which the smoke would cause a screen between the Sun and the atmosphere dropping temperatures making agricultural fail as well as depositing acid rain suit pollution and poisonous air on great areas of the earth well this fall it appears to the oil wells were finally put out but does that mean that the ecological crisis is over not according to Bob the tallest who is an Australian oil researcher who just wrote an article in the piece net that indicates that the environmental threat is still there with the oil wells in Kuwait still spewing oil into the atmosphere you saw on television perhaps one of the Emir of Kuwait's underlings the prince put out the last oil well fire in late November you saw a beautiful sand beautiful sky and it looked like the pollution was over well as it turned out they brought tons of sand of clean sand to the desert to put over the oil-soaked filthy sand to create a set a stage set to make it look like everything was okay that the oil fires were out well the tallest reports that at least 200 are still spewing oil into the atmosphere and is causing the greatest all lakes and oil rivers in history moreover these oil lakes can deposit their pollution into the water supply of kuwait as well as poisoning the desert and they're

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poisoning the desert and they're starting to seep into the gas in addition they give out a toxic fume from just the the dissolving of the oil in the atmosphere it gives out a toxic fume that is more deadly than the suit that is burnt but they cannot be detected moreover it seems like there's no way to stop these wealth flows because the lakes are so big around some of the oil wells that the crews can't get in to stop them also the pressure of these oil wells is such that they require an incredibly complicated demolition process where they have to put explosives deeply underground to stop the flow of oil coming to the surface so it looks like it's possible the Kuwait's oil industry is simply going to be ruined there for years to come there may not be a solution to this pollution event the other thing that vitalis said that I'd never heard of before in my life indicated that the United States didn't in Britain didn't really care if the oil and in Kuwait and Iraq was destroyed in the Persian Gulf War because according to vitalis the largest supply of oil reserves in history was found off the Falkland Islands you remember the war that the British had with the Argentine's over the Falkland Islands some years ago well behind this was the greatest oil deposits in history far more than his in Saudi Arabia according to vitalis but the kicker is that because the Falkland Islands are so far offshore they're so far from the mainland that it will be very expensive to produce the oil the only way that this could be cost-effective is for the oil price to go up which means the supply of Mideast oil has to disappear once this happens then Britain in the United States can move in for the greatest financial killing in history this is something that I at least have not yet seen reported on the mainstream media which

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reported on the mainstream media which is a curious story behind the scenes of the Persian Gulf War will have another story in relationship to Bush's war against Iraq later in the program now let's have our interview with Bill Kelsey who is expert on the Middle East and just returned from a trip to Iraq Jordan and Israel he concentrates on Iraq for our interview bill what does the situation like in first day I showed a lot of damage right sorry um first I should warn you always watch out for skunks rattlesnakes and Middle East experts yeah anybody who claims to be a Middle East expert watch out watch out a lot of them got us into this last war they trotted him out all out during the crisis and be careful it's not a place that lends itself to expertise I've I spent my childhood there and I went over as translator cross-cultural coordinator and taxi fetcher and negotiator with customs people and I had to keep seven people out of trouble in four countries and I succeeded in that it's a very complex area yeah but one worth studying people shouldn't throw up their hands and despair and say well because it's so complicated we should we don't have any interest because a lot of American wealth is boarding to there a lot of expertise and talent and i should say destructive talent goes in and I think we have a responsibility to get down and do our homework and study what's going on to answer your question things are pretty wretched in Iraq the Iraqis are doing a good job recovering from the war they're working real hard to rebuilding the big bridges and a lot of the main buildings in Baghdad that were destroyed have been repaired and there are others that are beyond repair so they're working hard the most obvious manifestation of the problem is the economy you an iraqi dinar when I was

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economy you an iraqi dinar when I was there well one dollar would buy about 90 rocky dinars he going to Baghdad and stay at not the top luxury hotel but maybe the bottom of the luxury hotel scale it our group stayed in the Baghdad hotel was 35 dinars in other words could be four dollars for US dollars for a double room in a nice nice hotel why would that have been like before the war you spell oh it used to be maybe about a dinar to a dollar a long time ago all right right and there are even times when a dinar would be as much as two dollars but I don't know the history of the exchange rate just used to be one of the strongest currencies in the Middle East but meanwhile the people who are mid-level employees might get 200 dinars a month's salary so for our one night stay in the hotel that would cost us the equivalent of four dollars they may have to work three or four days and and that's where you see the greatest distortion for a westerner any outsider coming in to Iraq it's incredibly cheap but for the people living there they really have to scrape and hustle and do everything they can one meal might be two days one meal in a restaurant might be two days labor what about food there's starvation there a lot of time I wouldn't say there's starvation at the level that you would were familiar with in say southern Sudan or Ethiopia but things are such that the week and the

forests are suffering the people have clearly been traumatized to just talking to them looking at them it's very clear that something horrible happened to them both the nightmare of the war itself and then everything since then for them the war's not over there their salary can

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war's not over there their salary can only support and their monthly salary only supports them for a week so it's very difficult for them to survive and they all would talk to us and say please we're being strangled our leadership nothing's happening the people at the top in power they are getting all the food they want they have nice cars but they're not in any difficulty at all so on this business of fighting Saddam Hussein by starving the people of Iran are putting the squeeze on them over and over again that's what we heard please don't do it if the corrals with Saddam Husein keep the crawl with him not with us people I saw references to some health studies were made by the UN and also by the by Harvard neighbors saying that there would be horrible consequences that a hundred thousand people mainly babies and old people are going to die because of lack of adequate sewage facilities and drinking waters is coming to business it's it's hard to say because situation in Iraq doesn't lend itself to really accurate statistical analysis for one thing the Iraqi regime itself which hasn't had to appeal to public opinion either domestically or abroad in the past doesn't know which point to emphasize if it's revealed exactly how many people are actually dying off it's a bad reflection on the regime on the other hand they can't make a strong case that they're using their resources well and efficiently and with great ingenuity to overcome all obstacles lest they make the case that the sanctions are not an issue in fact it's an issue as to whether 20,000 or 120,000 have died as a result I can't tell you but things happen for example cancer patients there's certain cancer patients that need cobalt treatments carell can also

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need cobalt treatments carell can also be used in nuclear weapons so cobalt can't go in chlorine for water purification is not allowed into Iraq because that can be used in chemical warfare so over you know now of course it's being smuggled in and snuck in and people work loopholes and a lot of times the decisions are very arbitrary it's a very complex maze as to what what's allowed in and what's kept out for some reason there are cigarettes and beer all over the place you can get all the alcoholic beverages and cigarettes you want whereas an exactly why is is something for someone else who has more time to study it was a question I raised several times with the Iraqis why why are there these Naseem's that because no one looks at beer and cigarettes as being a necessity the government keeps its hands off of it the UN the coalition people who manage the sanctions are not preoccupied with keeping beer out of the country or cigarettes out of the country and likewise the Iraqi government not seeing beer as a necessity of life is not going to regulate it as a result it's all over the place I thought a good Muslim was supposed to drink alcohol there are some people would say that the Iraqis are not the best example of pure Islam in fact there's our own a secular state it's a very secular state I there are many bad things to be said about the Iraqi regime but creditors should be given when it's due there it is a secretary of secular regime and it does not impose religious rules on the people in fact there are lots of religious sects and ethnic communities in Iran summer fascinating their backgrounds in history well for all of the brutality of Saddam Hussein

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all of the brutality of Saddam Hussein he did do a lot of good for the people as far as things like we've had infrastructure education and medical facilities right and that man is also also enters yeah and that has to be made clear just to understand what we're dealing with and and why why people did support Saddam Hussein in spite of the war against Iraq now the main objection to Selma saying these days as I speak to exile Iraqis and what few Iraqis would speak to us in Iraq about what's really on their minds the man did get them into two wars oh really three if you count the Civil War and they hold that against him a lot didn't hold it against him the iran-iraq war and people say well that's really strange how sick of him to send so many hundreds of thousands of young men to their deaths and it was indeed sick but I would point out that he wasn't behaving

any differently than robert e lee or abraham lincoln many americans on one side or rather take very seriously what's the attitude of the Iraqis toward the Americans you find hostility toward you and your group with how many people seven other people let me wrong we're all ex-military ex US military some had served in Vietnam some it refused to go to Vietnam we had a marine combat veteran from World War two with us who still rettinger the CIA men eventually went into the CIA it was very refreshing they didn't hold any hatred against the American people just as Americans tend to focus their anger against Saddam Hussein the Iraqis are focusing it on George Bush so the American people get off the hook is how sparse and in particular this should be said to the peace movement which I think many members of the American peace movement feel that they failed we're told more than once in Iraq that the Iraqi pili people have positive feelings towards us

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people have positive feelings towards us because they saw on television on their television they saw Americans demonstrating in the street and they saw that many Americans opposed the war and did not wish for this to happen did you tell him it was a very popular war in the eyes I didn't have the heart to bring that up all the time but when I did bring it up or other members of the group brought it up they said well it wasn't their fault they must have gotten brainwashed well let's try to it it was the fascinating they they they wanted to be friends with America wasn't I people have predicted the long-range hatred that would happen they did feel that Americans tried hard to avoid civilian targets and when civilian targets were hit they I saw two phenomena one was that they blamed the Saudis and Kuwait ease and I checked this out I'd read about it before i went there and i checked with taxi drivers and I checked with doctors and I checked with a lot of people they said yeah we feel that in the West you all know how to use your equipment and you're well trained on it but we all think the Saudis know how to use it they were probably the ones who hit our hospitals and so forth could have right so long and then they had the other side that I saw in that was when we were going when hospital head led the town of henna had lots of civilian targets including hospitals and so forth that were hit by raids whereas Baghdad the bombing was very precise and hit buildings right on target really impressed people that they came away saying Americans can do anything which led them to ask why can the Americans take out Saddam was saying like they did Noriega if they felt that strongly about him what what what's what was going on there but anyway as we were being toured around headland we had various doctors from the hospitals they would say something well this hospital maybe they hit it because they thought

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maybe they hit it because they thought our water tower look like a military observation post or maybe half a mile away was that radio station they're trying to bomb the radio station and the bombs landed on this hospital it was almost as though many of the people were trying to find an excuse for America not old resentment very deeply they don't want to continue this quarrel with the United States the the people you talked to know how what a cozy relationship the United States has had particular the CIA with Saddam Hussein over the years well Saddam Hussein it was a real delicate topic nobody forced us to say good things about him or challenged us it was as though it was a taboo subject they didn't even discuss that I try talking about it with some taxi drivers and they would plead total ignorance when I first pulled into Iraq the very first guard that we saw before we even got to the formal customs checkpoint the first man said welcome to Iraq where everything is perfect as long as Saddam Hussein's in power which some people think was code for just the opposite and there were two or three other people I think of this said that referred to him by name and said something positive about him one of the people who who said he supported Saddam Hussein also made the point that he would prefer that the United States take him out if if George Bush it was and I have to make this very clear because Newsweek got the story wrong that newsweek wrote a story that implied that the Iraqi people were allied with the the American invasion and were disappointed that the job quote unquote wasn't finished what's actually going on is no Saddam Hussein is the best alternative but if George Bush has strong feelings against Saddam Hussein and he should take Saddam Hussein out and not be stressed starving the old people and the infant's of Iraq that's the point that is made as far as the

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the point that is made as far as the cozy relationship there's no way to get into that deeply with the Iraqis however one of the people on the group was Phil rettinger who as I mentioned had served in the CIA he was the individual who overthrew the Guatemalan government in 1954 at the instruction of Allen Dulles a head of the CIA he said I don't I don't know too much about that on the same but the main thing I have against him is that he was one of our hitmen when I was in the CIA yes say what says yeah he was one of our assassins and I'd heard this a few from a few other sources but you know I don't believe anything in the Middle East till I hear it from three or four sources and I would tell our audience they shouldn't believe this until they hear from several more sources but it's definitely to follow while i was there in Baghdad lo and behold here I have a newspaper to Baghdad observer oh it's in English is that a translation of no no this is they think they have a newspaper there's a big english-speaking community in Baghdad I mean there aren't that many people there now reading the newspaper they're distributing this free in the hotel but it gets published every day but this has story right here says president honours brave partisans and incidentally every newspaper in Iraq has one picture another Saddam was saying this isn't the best one it's just a picture of in downtown what he did was go down to Rashid street and he decorated he put a ribbon on a statue of a fellow by the name of Jerry good abdelwahab Allegretti who what happened in 1959 saddam hussein in about six other people took it upon themselves and here's saddam hussein's quote regardless of philosophical technical and other explanations the decision expressed the conscience of the people what do you saying what's referring to is a group of Erebus socialist parties then young members including the president attacked

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members including the president attacked the then dictator prime minister abdul karim qassem was machine guns in a daring operation to get rid of them and again the president speaking says the attacking team comprised seven persons including the President himself who was wounded in the leg during the attack so here's what I'm saying going downtown putting a ribbon on the statue of one of his buddy of fellow assassins who in this failed assassination attempt one of his buddies got killed and so a year later they successfully killed Eric Koston they successfully and then Saddam Hussein arranged or the people who came to power put up a statue of could add a the assassin omit not made it out of the attempt and I guess coincidentally while we were there I tried to see it wasn't the anniversary it wasn't anything but he thought it was appropriate to go downtown and hang a ribbon on this statue and decorate the other surviving assassins now the story that I'm getting from one or two sources is that Abdul Kareem costume was assassinated at the expense of the CIA CIA paid for it I read an article also what you talked about this and said that the CIA provided transportation and facilities and all for clothes yeah for them who knows I'm carried appeared to believe it completely and it's is the type of story that neither Saddam it's such a scandal on both sides so you can count on neither side admitting it i mean saddam hussein obviously can't come out and say i used to be an assassin for the CIA and the CIA can't admit that this great demon of the last year got his career with their help got his career started with their help well as parallel to I mean he's the type of person that the CIA would would like to have write that up in other countries so it's served whether it was their intention for him to become head of

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intention for him to become head of state and or not who knows but anyways did you go to Kuwait or we went right down to the border we didn't get to Kurdistan we did not make it up there but we went to Basra when we saw Carabella we saw Anna Jeff we saw the hard places that took an awful lot of punishment right right we saw hella and saffron we were in saffron not only was there did they take punishment during the war itself these cities in the south but then after the war there was an uprising and there was lots of damage during the uprising to the credit of the people who were showing us around they did not try to say that the damage that came about as a result of the Civil War was due to the Allies there they're pretty honest and straightforward also once you saw the damage you got an idea of which types of damage were caused by the u.s. bombing and and which type were caused by internal fighting just the way the types of bullets and the types of bombs you could see it very clearly how long do the Civil War last it wasn't all that long it wasn't all that long it started before the American ceasefire actually went into effect with the Iraqis told us is that

there were agents who came over from here on and there were local hoodlums as they put it who rebelled and took advantage of the breakdown in communications there were some people who hinted that they would have liked a rebellion to succeed but these particular people were very unsavory folks who were reluctant or unenthusiastic about Saddam Hussein were also very unenthusiastic about the people leading the uprising they were Muslim fundamentalists but they didn't have any program they didn't have any clear ideology their idea when they took over a town was to burn the administration building they didn't try to administer the town or anything one

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to administer the town or anything one person who explained it to me said if they had a good program if they had been able to explain themselves they probably would have succeeded and he hinted that he might have appreciated seeing them seeing a successful rebellion but these particular people weren't and it was very intense i mean just judging by the damage and also judging by the fact that it was in a widespread area i mean i'm talking the southern old southern half of iraq basically was had this problem what was your from what you you've read the people you talk to you did well first of all did you talk to his people who had come out of kuwait and what did they say about what was going on you see where we went down to the border in stuff one and every tuesday and thursday i believe it was several bus loads of people come out of kuwait who are not being expelled directly from kuwait but from prisons in kuwait and every day there are people being repatriated and just as well seems whenever there's a ceasefire line and when you have two structures or two groups of structures that have gone to the trouble of committing organized mass murder murder whichever the last side of the line you stand on you'll hear all sorts of atrocity stories about the other side and and they're all believable we witness people coming out of Iraq there was one man standing there at the border who had been gone down to the border every Tuesday and every thursday for about two months waiting to see if his wife was coming out and the day we were there a group of women came out and they had just been released from jail they said yeah your wife's in jail she's singing about you every day and we think she'll be out next week so he was really overjoyed I think about that into my my wife's one or two hours late I'm just

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wife's one or two hours late I'm just remember that fellow who spent two months not knowing if his wife was alive or dead or some of the stories they tell about their treatment oh the standard torture stories people get slapped around people get raped it's virtually everything that you heard that Iraqis were doing to Kuwait ease you now here the Kuwaiti czar doing to the Palestinians and you hear that they're doing it to the Bedouins there's a group of people called the dune which isn't to be confused with Bedouins all things better better rain is really better okay they are nomads and Bedu is the formal name for them these are people who are nomads a similar word badoo means without and so there was a group of people who didn't really they were no more part of Iraq Saudi Arabia or Kuwait no more one than the other but as Kuwait was set up they might have been better as well some of them may have as well been better they gravitated to Kuwait they worked for kuwait some of them even served in the Kuwaiti army they served as security guards they were part of Kuwait but they weren't part of the original families of the original Kuwait village who had power in the country and who gave themselves Kuwaiti citizenship these people spent their entire lives and careers in Kuwait and now they're being punished it's the Kuwaiti czar reacting like well it's all these people who work ladies who were living in our country they're the ones who call it caused us to fall and so the medulla are getting expelled by doing means without they don't have any citizenship they don't belong to Iraq they don't belong to a Saudi Arabia and technically they don't belong to Kuwait as far as the Kuwaiti czar concerned so we saw these people being expelled and Palestinians I think they used to be about 3 350,000 and when

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they used to be about 3 350,000 and when we were there that count was estimated to be a fifty thousand three hundred thousand palestinians had been expelled and the Palestinians in Kuwait did not all collaborate I mean they are being punished for what Yasser Arafat did and the way the Kuwaiti czar handling it is people are punished by national block so there were Kuwaiti who collaborated there were some Palestinians who collaborated with the Iraqis there were Syrians who collaborated their Egyptians who collaborated there were Sudanese who collaborated but once the Kuwaiti Emir was restored the way the Kuwaiti czar handling it is punishing population groups according to the position of their government so the Syrians who collaborated are being punished the Palestinians and mass are being punished because of what Yasser Arafat did the Sudanese and the Yemenis they're being punished and thrown out the Egyptians was they collaborated or not they're not being punished and a lot of what constituted collaboration was just doing things like going to school or going to work the Kuwaiti made a decision to stay inside one of the ways the Kuwaitis were able to stay inside they they they stayed inside a lot of them either they're afraid to go outside or they did it as an act of protest or it was just too dangerous for some the men especially well how did they get away with being able to be cooped up in their houses they had to depend on other people like Palestinians to bring them money Palestinians did shopping for them other non Kuwaiti people did things another point of they did things for the folks who stayed in their houses and now this is considered collaboration because they were out walking around selling going to work it was considered collaboration if you took your Kuwaiti license plate off the car and putting a

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license plate off the car and putting a rocky plate on which you were required to do well the Kuwaiti families might have five cars so they'll lock up four of their cars change the license plate on one of them and they'll keep their cars all locked up Palestinian might have only one car in order to drive around he has to change his license plate so he put an Iraqi license plate on and now that would be proof of collaboration that he put the Iraqi license plate on so the the queries are not acting in a varian lamed fashion at all towards the people in their own country now we had a news story that the incident of rape in Kuwait particular by the army and just roaming gangs and maybe the police forces is very prevalent right and it's again it's a situation that doesn't lend itself to gathering as statistics because women are inclined to tell about it he hear the stories and some people say that it's happening in their eyewitness accounts but it's hard to pin down but we we heard it virtually all over the Middle East and in both from the people at the border who were observing the people coming out we heard it from Red Cross we heard it from Norwegian UN medical personnel people in Jordan or receiving the Jordan is the country that's receiving most of the people expelled from Kuwait they seem to be fairly common knowledge there what were your feelings about Iraq and Iran keep people on you on the way back very very positive you know there was a joke making the rounds during the war which referred to Iraqi women his guts and i think i'd be very annoyed if I heard that Joe again because the Iraqi women are so beautiful and you made the Americans they Elijah no no it was it was a joke making assert the rounds here in the United States in the United States about Iraqi women in which they

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States about Iraqi women in which they referred to his guts and and there really beautiful women the people were very correct at worst with us and very friendly it at best naturally there's double moral bookkeeping whenever you have a war in which they're all too ready to talk about the atrocities that the other side is done to them but more either reluctance or just lack of information about the atrocities that their site might have done to someone else why one story I the stands most vivid in my mind is that in bus run their merchants that are paying people to go out and gather landmines and they're paying between the equivalent of three and four dollars for each land line depending on what type it is in seas under these unemployed fellows are going off into the desert and with shovels and no mine detection equipment and they're just scratching around with their hands and with their shovels trying to find these landlines and the program had been going on for about four weeks when we were there in bus run we heard about it we heard that the Norwegian hospital in the UN zone was taking in casualties about five or six casualties a day of guys coming in with her feet blown off her hands blown off or more and so we went down there and had a very nice very high

opening an encounter with the Norwegians have three fellows had just been brought in from the desert right before we got there and one of them he had his throat all mangled to hear from some horrible injury he'd gotten during the iran-iraq war he was a military veteran himself and his other leg had been mangled from another injury in the war and he pulled the blanket off and then he had about 12 bullet holes here on his shoulder and his arm plus miscellaneous shrapnel scars his hand was mangled from

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scars his hand was mangled from something and now he lost his foot gathering minds and it was a real metaphor I thought for you know how much sha abuse can life take and amazing that this fellow had survived at all what he had to do to survive was to go out and try to gather these landmines and then spite of it all there he was still still surviving and trying i've tried to think what what that says southern iraq as a whole was a real i thought real blasphemy against creation it the environment was very messed up between what the bulldozers had done during the iran-iraq war to build defensive fortifications mean all along in that whole southern area you've got trenches and earthworks and things for tanks to hide behind and so on and that looks real ugly and then there's just junk all over the place all this unrecognizable things that have been blown up there hold junkyards full of military hardware they've been blown to bits and that have been gathered up miles and miles of them're in these big parking lots full of and then there's things that are unrecognizable knocked over pylons and it's just a real mess it's uh it's a real attack on the earth when you have war nowadays well the gulf war was over and the question now arises was it worth it we have a total destruction of Iraq the whole infrastructure of that country was destroyed there between 170,000 and 240,000 dead Iraqis from the war according to a recent survey by Greenpeace Kuwait was ruined during the invasion and the ground war their infrastructure was destroyed their oil

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infrastructure was destroyed their oil wells are on fire and are now spewing forth oil into the desert and their whole oil industry seems to have been destroyed because Bush refused to negotiate a settlement to the war and insisted on the ground war you have no more democracy than you ever had in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait the ruling family in kuwait has come back into power it's repressed human rights it's of the Palestinians and other non Kuwaiti minorities it has created a more repressive situation than even before with kangaroo courts with throwing non Kuwaiti citizens out of the country and likewise in Iraq Saddam Hussein is still in power his Baath Party continues to impress the Kurds and other religious minorities in the country so it appears that nothing really was accomplished by that war in fact this war was the most expensive event in recent history hundreds of billions of dollars were destroyed worth of property in that war there was a recent estimate in The Australian Financial Review the 250 billion dollars worth of the Iraqi infrastructure was destroyed a hundred billion dollars worth of their military equipment the United States paid a hundred billion dollars worth of military equipment in the war in Kuwait a hundred billion dollars worth of their infrastructure was destroyed and 120 billion dollars worth of private property so far 40 billion dollars worth of their oil has been destroyed through the oil fires and the oil wells that are now out of control and again it appears that nothing was gained by this well when the left wing was discussing what the war was all about they were claiming that it was a war for oil to control the oil resources and so flies from that area but it appears to me in retrospect it was really more about the control of petrodollars and saving the military-industrial complex the real investment of Kuwait was not in oil but was in Petro dollars they have

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oil but was in Petro dollars they have something like 200 and billion dollars invested in the United States and Britain and the United States wanted to keep control of the Kuwaiti investment in the Western camp Saddam Hussein had threatened to take all of the investments of his country Iraq and Kuwait and invest them into the Soviet Union the East block or the Middle East and the United States was very concerned to keep controlling the investment of Petro dollars they were also concerned to save the military-industrial complex not only were their massive cuts that were threatening the military but this also threatened the military-industrial

complex who turned out to be the major beneficiary of the Persian Gulf War during the very first week of the crisis in the Gulf before a shot was fired in August Kuwait and the Saudis and the other oil Emirates but a tremendous amount of weapons from the United States for future use Saudi Arabia signed a contract for 40 billion dollars the biggest deal in history in August of 1990 and Omar bar on and the Kuwait ease followed up by many tens of million billions more in arms moreover rebuilding Kuwait is going to be another hundred billion dollar contracts for the corporations that are involved in the military industrial complex and in the construction area of that region such as de bechtel corporation which has gotten a lot of the big contracts to rebuild Kuwait so it seems that the real interest in that war was to protect the investment and to keep going with the military-industrial complex it was also revealed recently in mother jones that scott armstrong discovered that there was already a 200 billion dollar military infrastructure in Saudi

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dollar military infrastructure in Saudi Arabia and this was also part of the Gulf War they needed to put it to use to justify it and of course they wanted to add to it to get many more billions dollars worth of contracts so it really wasn't so much about oil the Gulf War as it was about the military-industrial complex Petro dollars and of course the failing presidency of George Bush Bush's popularity was nose-diving it appeared he wasn't going to win a second term he was flubbing tremendously on the domestic scene he had the greatest deficit and SNL crisis in history to deal with and he wanted to to detract attention from these domestic problems and the puff himself up is a great wartime leader he thought that every great president needed a war the war is the event that brings the country together in a patriotic wargasm which is exactly what happened in the Persian Gulf War and this would boost his failing popularity and indeed it did so again it was george bush that was pushing the hardest for the persian gulf war another person pushing very hard for it was brent scowcroft who's Bush's National Security Advisor scowcroft was a former lieutenant general in the Air Force he was Gerald Ford's national security adviser and then he quit and joined kissing her associates Henry Kissinger's multi-billion dollar consulting firm that does deals with every country in the Mideast that was involved in the war from Iraq through Kuwait through Saudi Arabia moreover skokoff was on the board of directors of the Santa Fe international which was a Kuwaiti owned company that had an American oil drilling company the skokoff again was deeply involved in this country company he also held stocks in 40 companies who had major interest since toddy Arabia and Kuwait so when Brent Scowcroft was pushing for the Persian Gulf War he was pushing for his

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Persian Gulf War he was pushing for his own economic interest he was pushing for the companies whose stocks he owned he was pushing from the for the defense industry that he had been closely aligned with he was also on the board of directors of North Northrop Airlines which is one of the big corporations that makes military equipment so this is a major scandal that simply has not been exposed in the mass media frequently hear from viewers who request a list of news publications which we use alternative views and also a reading list for a u.s. power structure in the mass media if you would like to have these send a stamped self-addressed envelope to the alternative Information Network p.o.box 7279 Austin Texas 787 13 you must send a self-addressed stamped envelope we also can provide you with information on how to get some of the publications by former CIA officer john stockwell we'd like to thank the members of our crew Eric eubank kevin l west and brian lynch who is the director of our interview alternative views is a presentation of the alternative Information Network p.o.box 7279 Austin Texas 787 13

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